

THE KIOSKERS: *I Knew it Was a Floating Palace but the Image I Had in Mind was
Something more Like the Titanic*

By Scott R. Adkins

PAMELA Franco's mom and married to Fredrique.

FREDRIQUE Franco's father, head Kiosk attendant and married to Pamela.

FRANCO Son of Pamela and Fredrique. Does not want to be a Kiosk attendant and is a great musician singer.

SABRINA Female in her twenties.

MATTEO Male in his thirties.

JANE Female in her twenties.

STRAW-BANITA A wood faerie from the upstate new york region.

PARTY GOERS/Other KIOSKERS

All ages. As many people as possible for the parties.
As many people as possible at the KIOSKERS for the big
choral numbers.

SETTINGS

The countryside/forest, just outside of a city so that
city can be seen in the distance.

A big city, various apartments.

A giant, unlikely dirigible that houses the now
obsolete worldly Kioskers, who now fly around the
world in a self sustaining dirigible ship.

I

SARA

So, we are in the countryside, with
this city visible in the distance.

This is a giant unlikely kiosk
dirigible making it's way toward a
tree.

PAMELA over here swings on a rope swing
tied to the Kiosk.

PAMELA

A F# F# A F# E B
Bees fly aw-ay from the snakes

A F# F# A F# E B
Bees taste the ho-ney man-drake

F# G F# E D
Bees make our life sweet

E F# G F# E
Bees make our life sweet

A F# A F# E B
Lit-tle bees fly a-round

A F# A F# F# E
Hold-ing hands at the playground

F# G F# E D
Lit-tle bees fly around

E F# G G F# F# E
Hold-ing hands at the play-ground

A A F# G A F# G A
A bush cric-ket in my back-yard

A A F# F# E

Has a devil tat-too

A F# F# E E
Never eat a bush cricket

A A F# E D
dipped in cho-co-late

[*an aside* Their friends will bite you]

A F# A F# E B
Lit-tle bees fly a-round

A F# A F# F# E
Hold-ing hands at the playground

F# G F# E D
Lit-tle bees fly around

E F# G G F# F# E
Hold-ing hands at the play-ground

My floating palace has redwood tree sails because it can fly.

My palace is missing a snow-capped mountain like a backdrop to a village in Switzerland.

SARA

FREDRIQUE carefully lands the giant dirigible in a tree. /He is moving levers, wheels and dials./ And the dirigible is landed.

CUE PARTY MUSIC

Okay, now we're going to this city, the one we saw on the horizon. Sabrina (refer to Alaina) and Matteo (refer to Scott) are at a party. They go to a piñata party, of course. At this party a titanic piñata hangs in the air and on Sabrina's last hit she whacks it but only a music box falls out. Matteo is

up next and well he splays the titanic
open and skeleton candy and music boxes
pour to the ground.

Matteo and Sabrina are tired, weirded
out and leave without looking back. As
they walk out another piñata of Ronald
Reagan's head drops down.

CUE PARTY MUSIC FADE-OUT

/PAUL BEGINS GUITAR AS FRANCO/

SARA

Back on the Kiosk. PAMELA (refer to
Alaina) and FREDERIQUE (refer to Paul)
drink tea on their deck. Their son
FRANCO (refer to Paul) is heard playing
music in the background.

PAMELA

This is good.

FREDERIQUE

Yes, very good.

PAMELA

This is more paradise than the last paradise.

FREDERIQUE

Yes.

PAMELA

More tea?

FREDERIQUE

No, no. For now, I go back to work. We will tea later.

SARA

In the city, Matteo and Sabrina are on
a bridge, like the Williamsburg bridge.

MATTEO

Hey.

SABRINA

Hey.

MATTEO

Sorry.

SABRINA

For what.

MATTEO

That party.

SABRINA

You should be.

MATTEO

Tuhhhh. You find the next one then.

SABRINA

I will.

MATTEO

What are we doing?

SABRINA

Sitting here...standing here.

MATTEO

Duh, I mean what are we going to do?

SABRINA

Forget everything around us.

Erase it. Close your eyes and erase it.

MATTEO

Too noisy.

SABRINA

First, the sky will be quiet
Then. I cross a field to collect bones

MATTEO

Bones?

SABRINA

Shhh. Listen.

...to collect bones
 I build a new house from light
 Horses will strike
 Lightening will fall
 we collect
 we fall
 we are built from bones

SABRINA shouts to the world around and
 the audience.

I am Sabrina. Sabrina. I won't speak like this the whole time.
 It's better for me to speak to you like this now instead of
 later because later you will be tired not worn out but you will
 have heard many words and a lot of story so you will be a little
 bit tired, maybe.

Stay with me for a little bit longer.

Lightning. Lightning grows fingers and reaches to the sky.

CUE - PARTY/MUSIC

Horses come to life as bones.

Isn't this great, we're doin' it!

Come on Matteo.

IV

MATTEO and SABRINA are at another
 party. IT'S LOUD AND...

MATTEO unplugs the ipod music, grabs a
 ukelele, and sings a song.

MATTEO

Dm7 G7
 I woke up in the city

Dm7 G7
I got to my feet

Dm7 G7
I stood on the sidewalk

C C6
Cars racing by me

(X2)
C6 G6
All I want is quiet

C6 G6
A day off from the noise

Am F
Shut this party down

Am F
Shut this party down

C6 G6
All I want is quiet

C6 G6
A day off from the noise

Am F
Shut this party down

Am F
Shut this party down

If I had a family
We'd ride a hot air balloon

Me, the wife, the kids, the dogs
Nothing but wind and sky

CUE - FOREVER YOUNG

SARA
MATTEO jumps off the table, the music
starts up ('YOUNG FOREVER' feat. Mr.

Hudson by JAY-Z) MATTEO and SABRINA
dance. JANE dancing approaches. JANE
sings some of the song.

JANE

"so we're living life like video
where the sun is always out
and you never get old
and the champagne's always cold
and musics always good
and the pretty girls....."

Oh my god Sabrina, how's it goin'?

SABRINA

Hey Jane.

JANE

Love this song...

SABRINA

Yeah! So...what's going on?

JANE

Not much, the same. I have a solo show.

SABRINA

Yeah?

JANE

Yeah, I'm doing close-ups of my hairy nipple.

SABRINA

You, really? Wait you're doing/

JANE

Let me see your hands.

You know, I take positives of hands and then photos and stuff.

SABRINA

Oh, yeah-yeah I remember now, plaster and photos, I thought you
said (oops) ... so that's cool, where's the show?

JANE

I'm a teaching artist too. You know, for the Gugg'.

SABRINA

Where's the show?

JANE

No. I like it for now. Can't do that shit forever, right?

SABRINA

Uh huh.

JANE

So yeah.

Hey, do you have any pot?

SABRINA

Yeah, uh no, I thought I was/

JANE

/Okay, but you don't have any?

SABRINA

You're hopeless Jane, look around you, you all look like bones/

JANE

Well, yeah but we're in the middle of it, right? You know, who cares? Live in the moment, smoke some weed/

SABRINA

/Here's something to think about.

CUE MUSIC FADES OUT(Shift)

Lightning kills horses in the country but not every time and lightning is getting worse.

Lightning is hitting more living animals than it ...

Lightning is the thing to be avoided.

SARA

SABRINA stands on the table.

SABRINA

Horses fall from the sky when lightning strikes.
Lightning strikes.
Hopeless causes.
Horses fall to the ground.

Matteo, let's go, for real.

Both walk to a motorcycle and get on.
SABRINA starts the motorcycle and
drives.

CUE MOTORCYCLE SOUND

SARA

From a motorcycle on the way out of
town. Sabrina drives, Matteo is on the
back and hangs on to her.

SABRINA

I LOVE SPEED! Matteo! It's like we sprouted from the ground. Not
tethered but together you know but like two carrots growing
really close together.

MATTEO

I always notice you Sabrina. I always close my eyes and smell
you. I know you're not big on perfume, but you always smell.
Good!

SABRINA

Why would you notice me? You never look at me. You notice
everyone else. You see everything else, you're always looking
over my shoulder at that someone passing behind me. Are you
listening? I don't know.

MATTEO

The thing is, your eyes. When I look at them I get that feeling
I get when I stand too close to the edge of a roof-top, you
know, I can crawl up to the edge on my knees and peek over and
my stomach lurches. That's my diaphragm closing down and when

that happens you can't breathe and you die. That's what it's like to look straight into your eyes.

SABRINA

I just want you to look at me sometimes, right at me, then maybe you'll see how I look at you. I look at you like a lynx on the Nordic snow field.

MATTEO

I look at your plaid shirts, your flower print dresses, your breasts...all of you is perfect and I will do anything for you when you sing! Anything.

CUE MOTORCYCLE SOUND OUT

SABRINA

If we're friends, we're friends, your loss.

SARA

MATTEO and SABRINA get off their bike. SABRINA kicks it to the ground. They walk to the edge of a forest. Sabrina cranks up the music box, it is the Beatles, Blackbird.

CUE BLACKBIRD MUSIC BOX SOUND

SABRINA

The meditation was a lesson of lessness. It took at least an hour to ride to the forest. Then we are walking. Matteo leading the way of course.

It's not like we're lovers or siblings or anything like that, we're best friends and he likes to walk ahead, that's what he does. When he enters a room, he enters first.

We walk into the forest. I thought it was the forest but soon realize the edge of the forest is a ballroom. I stop but Matteo keeps going. I just stand there looking around, where did all these people come from? He just strolls among them. How does he do that? So cool and casual like he's been here a million times or like he knows everyone, I guess it's because he is comfortable. I am not.

SARA (say or show/or both)

Four deer appear. The buck stares at SABRINA, the others perk up but don't notice her. The buck watches SABRINA, SABRINA watches the buck. She tries to get them to come to her.

SABRINA

Desperation and fear, they smell the same don't they. It's not a good smell either, not like coconut or lavender; it's a smell that prevents you from entering a room. I'll just stand here.

/MATTEO returns with something in his hand./

MATTEO

Here.

/MATTEO hands Sabrina a ping pong ball./

Open it.

SABRINA

It's a ping pong ball.

MATTEO

I know.

/MATTEO makes motion for cracking a nut./

You know? Open it.

SABRINA

You can't open a ping-pong ball.

MATTEO

Crack it like a black walnut.

SABRINA

Why's everything have to be so complicated? Everything is backwards.

MATTEO

Come on, just crack it.

/SABRINA bounces the ping pong ball on the ground. Nothing happens./

MATTEO

Not like that, here, use this.

SARA

MATTEO hands SABRINA a set of nut crackers. /SABRINA cracks the ping pong ball like a black walnut. A cube of something falls out./

MATTEO

There you go.

SABRINA

What's this?

/A bell sounds. SABRINA and MATTEO do not notice the people are streaming to the big tree and climbing into the dirigible. /

MATTEO

Smell it.

SABRINA smells it.

SABRINA

Maple. A cube of maple? Nice.

Now can we go to the forest?

MATTEO

Okay.

SABRINA

I'm holding the cube of maple that came out of that ping pong ball and I'm not sure what's next. I follow Matteo.

SARA

SABRINA is looking for a tree from her childhood, MATTEO is soaking in the forest. They do not notice PAMELA and

FREDERIQUE watching from the deck of
the improbable dirigible which is
landed in a tree nearby.

MATTEO

Do you smell strawberries?

SABRINA

Bananas.

STRAW-BANITA

I am Straw-banita. A wood faerie. I see you. I hear you. Listen
to me closely.

CUE - PAUL STARTS THE SONG ON GUITAR

A wood faerie named Straw-banita
whispers a love song in SABRINA and
MATTEO's ears. As though they are under
someone else's control, they sing.

FREDRIQUE and PAMELA dance together
while SABRINA and MATTEO sing.*

<begin song>

Love, oh love, oh careless love
Love, oh love, oh careless love
Oh it's love, oh love, oh careless love
You see what careless love has done

Once I wore my apron low
Once I wore my apron low
Oh it's once I wore my apron low
You'd follow me through rain and snow

Now I wear my apron high
Now I wear my apron high
Oh it's now I wear my apron high
You'll see my door and pass it by

I cried last night and the night before
I cried last night and the night before
Oh I cried last night and the night before
Going to cry tonight and cry no more

Love, oh love, oh careless love
Love, oh love, oh careless love
Oh it's love, oh love, oh careless love
You see what careless love has done

*note: this is a Bill Monroe song
"Careless Love"

PAMELA goes back to swinging on the
rope swing.

SABRINA

There it is.

MATTEO

How do you know?

SABRINA

The kite. I lost it up in the same tree when I was little.

MATTEO

There's lots of kites up there. Which one is yours.

SABRINA

That one. I wrote a letter to my mother on it. It said, mom, I forgive you for leaving me, I forgive you for not loving me as much as I loved you, I forgive you for painting my room blue, will you forgive me now for saying these things?

MATTEO

Did you send it?

SABRINA

I wrote it on that kite and the kite got stuck in the tree. I'm sure she got the message though.

MATTEO

Yeah.

SABRINA

This maple cube is melting in my hand, see? Look at this, there's - there's something inside of it, it's a humming bird, wow, look at that. Ahhh.

MATTEO

There it goes.

Humming bird flies up to the tree and that's when MATTEO notices the dirigible in the tree.

MATTEO

Where the hell did that come from?

MATTEO is referring to the dirigible lodged in the tree. It resembles a kiosk but is as big as a hotel. /The second to highest deck has a garden and the main level deck is where FREDRIQUE and PAMELA have their dance./

SABRINA

It's on the branch I watched the robins grow on, saw them for the first time right there.

MATTEO

Who's that?

SABRINA

The robins. That thing is probably why they left. Or do you think they ate them? Did you eat the robins you tree people? Did you?

MATTEO

Aw.

SABRINA

I watched Mr. and Mrs. Robin make baby robins every summer and raise them and send them off on their own, push them right out of the nest and some wouldn't make it and I'd take them home and put them in a little jar. The ones that didn't make it didn't have feathers. I suppose that's why they didn't make it, you think?

MATTEO

I guess.

How'd they get that thing up there?

FREDRIQUE swings open one of the windows of the dirigible.

FREDRIQUE

Air power. The only way to travel.

FREDRIQUE looks at his watch.

Oh, you are standing in a, how should I say, a terrible spot. Oh you shouldn't looking either, the door is... stop I tell you, ay, Pamela!

SABRINA

Why?

PAMELA

He's saying you can't be standing just there. You shouldn't be ...if you moving a little to the/

SABRINA

/Well that's a terrible place to live.

FREDRIQUE

What? Ah, you throw insults at me like peanuts, ha ha! I eat them up. I eating the peanuts, yah? You taste so good. But you really should be/

A loud bell.

/Uh noh. Look out below.

A chute on the bottom of Kiosk opens and garbage comes flying down, mostly bones.

SABRINA

Why did you do that? You're mean.

PAMELA

He told you not to stand there didn't he? I did not do anything, it is the time for the chute to open, that is all. I am so sorry but iffing you had moved you would be super.

SABRINA

This isn't your tree you know.

PAMELA

This is where we live now. You want us to go?

FREDRIQUE

But Pamela, it is not possible. Why should we be going away from paradise?

MATTEO

What kinda house is that anyway?

FREDRIQUE

Ah, it is a Kiosque. I'm sorry in English, we traveling far. This is a Kiosk.

MATTEO

I don't think so.

PAMELA

It is true. We are a family of Kiosk attendants and five families are living in this kiosk.

SABRINA

Isn't a kiosk a computer?

FREDRIQUE

Oh. I sense that maybe, that possibly we have stepped into the wrong foot. You seem friendly people, as the attendant of this Kiosk, the head attendant of this Kiosk I would like to apologize for the chute. A terrible mistake.

So. We are the original kiosk attendants, my family. We sell information, like newspapers and magazines and gum.

May I offer you some information?

SABRINA

Why didn't you let the robins stay?

FREDRIQUE

Did she say robins?

PAMELA

Yes, I think. What robins, dear?

SABRINA

Oh please don't call me dear, I have been visiting the robins for years and now because you took their branch they are gone.

FREDRIQUE

Ah a birds nest on this branch? It is a good branch, you can see why I choosing it to land the Kiosk. I am sorry for the robins but I am sure they have found a branch someplace else.

SABRINA

Where? Tell me where?

FREDRIQUE

This, I will have to think about, where another branch as good as this one could possibly be.

VII

PAMELA

Fredrique, it is time for tea? Maybe our new friends would like some tea?

PAMELA enters the Kiosk to get the tea.

Wa la.

A shift.

SABRINA

My mom said to me "You never happened." You never happened.

Me and Matteo go with the kioskers. We fly over the seven seas ridge to the island of trees where the seven seas meet.

We find the robins, thriving more than I would imagine.

Lightning strikes. Horses fall. The devil of the seas grimaces. The horses fall and we go on. We go on to a twin cry we go on.

We never happen together.

A shift.

MATTEO

We never happen together?

PAMELA

Well I will bring it down and you decide. Tea is my English indulgence, barely cooked fresh chocolate chip cookies is my American indulgence and my French indulgence you wonder, is piano. Franco will play a few turns for us, Franco?

FRANCO begins with a dark Russian march.

PAMELA

Franco, nothing to reflect your mood, a little lighter please. Something more folk for our new friends.

FRANCO shifts to "go tell it on the range," he sings with a number of unseen singers.

Franco is our thirty five year old son. He has no interest in being a kiosk attendant. But, he is still a good boy.

MATTEO

So, what other kind of information would a kiosk attendant dispense?

FREDRIQUE

What other kind of information are you seeking?

PAMELA

Don't lead them along Fredrique, we don't have any information anymore. No bobby will pay for a newspaper or a magazine or wait a minute. We have knishes! You would like a knish, perhaps you will have a knish?

SABRINA

No thank you. What's a knish?

MATTEO

It's hard to sell information from a tree isn't it?

SABRINA

What do you have besides knishes?

PAMELA

If you would like, I could show you our hall of letters.

FREDRIQUE

Ah, not the letters, really Pamela this is not something anyone will want to pay for. Weather still fetches a penny or two as does a good toast.

Everyone still wants to know the weather where-ever they are. Even with the internet they will come to me, nobody trusts where they get the weather from, maybe that's why they ask everyone they see what the weather is to be.

MATTEO

That's true, what's today's forecast.

FREDRIQUE

At the moment it is cloudy over that hill but right here it is sunny. Tonight will be clear temperatures at 19 degrees and by 6am it will be a low of 13 degrees.

VIII

The sun is setting, night time is rising.

FREDRIQUE

I think you should chop some wood and we'll have a campfire tonight. We're coming out of the new moon phase and by about 3am you'll have an almond sliver rising in the east/

MATTEO attempts to chop wood during the following and fails miserably.

MATTEO

I call it a thumbnail.

FREDRIQUE

A thumbnail rising in the east then.

MATTEO

I can't chop wood. I broke your axe and this other axe is dull, this axe here is too short and this one is long enough, sharp enough but it does not carry the weight to make it through a log. I thought I could but I can't.

What if I have a letter, would that be of use?

FREDRIQUE

You see Pamela? People have their own letters.

MATTEO

Maybe we can trade?

PAMELA

Yes, yes, I have many letters but they are all from me to my mama, my papa, my babies, my aunties, my sister, my brother dies too long ago but I write to him too, what kind of letter do you have.

MATTEO

Well, it's a business complaint letter?

SABRINA is gathering bones and
constructing the house.

FREDRIQUE

Ah, now that is something. Read it to us and we will decide its price. Young lady we can use those bones for our camp fire tonight, since we don't have any wood.

SABRINA

I've been gathering bones all afternoon across the field, they will make a much better house, a camp fire seems so luxurious.

PAMELA

Shhhh, the young man will read his letter now. Franco! Enough playing, thank you!

FRANCO stops playing the singers
grumpingly stop singing.

FREDRIQUE

They were just getting warmed up.

PAMELA

Shhhh.

MATTEO

Dear Sprint PCS,

I am writing as a loyal customer to your wireless services. I have found that over the past seven or eight years now that you have provided an outstanding service to me and my family and I would like to thank you for that.

It is unfortunate though, that I now must terminate our contract with you due to an egregious oversight on your part and lack of interest in us as valued customers.

My normal bill is about \$120 per month for three phones. My last bill was \$583.00, due to going over our maximum anytime minutes. I have paid this bill and take full responsibility for this overage.

My disappointment stems from the fact that at no point did Sprint PCS find it unusual that we had dramatically changed our usage pattern, nor did Sprint consider offering us a usage upgrade when we had gone over our minutes. Instead, during our unusually eventful month due to a family emergency and a business expansion you let our minutes run up. You also let our minutes run up into the next month as well. Upon discovering our significant increase in usage, I attempted to upgrade our plan to more minutes however that will not go into affect until the end of this cycle, August 24th.

I am extremely dissatisfied with your attention and customer consideration.

Good luck and good night.

Sincerely,

Matteo Dimitri

FREDRIQUE

You're Italian, incredible. We are French!

PAMELA

Hourra! We'll take it.

FREDRIQUE

I am not so sure, the sign-off is a bit 'thank you and good night', what if they are reading this in the morning or the afternoon. How can you say good night?

MATTEO

I guess it's my way of saying I am disappointed but I have a sense of humor about my disappointment?

FREDRIQUE

Dissatisfaction is not funny. There is no humor in a customer who is upset, I know from my business.

PAMELA

Ah, Fedrique you used to know, you used to, now we only dispense a knish here and there. Speaking of, would you like a knish or a letter for your letter.

FREDRIQUE

This trade is not fair.

PAMELA

Correction, your shift is over Fedrique and I am the attendant on duty and I decide fair is fair.

SABRINA

Matteo, don't move. There's a very large black spider on you.

MATTEO

Where?

SABRINA

Don't move. It's on your chest close to your shoulder... heart.

MATTEO

Can you get it?

FREDRIQUE

Don't hit it!

MATTEO

Jesus, shhhh.

SABRINA

Got it.

PAMELA

Did you kill it?

SABRINA

Why would I do that?

FREDRIQUE

Good girl.

MATTEO

Because it'll come back and bite me, maybe?

PAMELA

Exactly. There it is, I won't be able to sleep tonight
Fredrique, now what will you do?

FREDRIQUE

I will sleep, then one of us will have sleep to sell the knish
tomorrow.

PAMELA

Ai yay yay.

IX

SABRINA sings the song of the Robins

Em

They weren't here when we got here

If they were I did not see them

Landing a ship that size on a branch that size

Must have frightened them far far away

FRANCO

Em

Am

I would like to meet the Robins

Em

Am

I would like to apologize to them

Em Am
I know where they may have gone

G Am
I know a place with trees like these

SABRINA

There is an island made up of trees
Houses to be made of bones
Tea is served in the afternoons

FREDERIQUE joins in with FRANCO

Em Am
If you are patient I can take you there

Em Am
If you are adventuress I can take you there

Em Am
If you are a swimmer I can take you there

G Am
If you forgive me I can take you there

SABRINA

The island of trees
Over the ridge of the seven seas
In the middle of a calm
Where the seven seas meet for the first time

FRANCO AND FREDERIQUE

Em Am
It is up to you

Em Am
It is up to you

Em Am
It is up to you

Em
Stay if you like

Am
Come if you like

X

SABRINA and MATTEO step onto the rope ladder and climb aboard.

FREDRIQUE

Then it is settled. You will come with us to the Island of Trees. There you will find your robin family.

PAMELA

Welcome to the Kiosk and Kioskers. We are a very big family.

SABRINA

How many did you say?

FREDRIQUE

Many generations big. This ship is our house with many families, you'll see. First, a toast, Pamela! A little 'cowboy jones' for us all.

PAMELA

Fredrique! I thought you put Cowboy Jones to bed!

FREDRIQUE

He woke up, just a bit. It's adventure and 'cowboy jones' starts adventure.

PAMELA pours a glass for all.

There we go. Rise them up, a toast to our adventure:

Here we start, mere strangers

May the wind carry us high from harm
Our days filled with good food and not so long
The weather be kind, gentle and warm

There we land, like family arm and arm

MATTEO

Delighted. Here's a penny for your troubles.

FREDRIQUE

Now you are the truest gentleman. Pamela.

PAMELA

What.

FREDRIQUE

Aw come on, don't be mad, it's a toast.

You're turn.

PAMELA

For what? I don't want a turn, whatever it is. Not with the way you are.

FREDRIQUE

Which is what?

PAMELA

Drunk on mung beans, drunker than ever. Cowboy jones.

FREDRIQUE

A toast.

And?

PAMELA

Give me a moment.

SABRINA

It's alright.

FREDRIQUE

No, no it's not.

MATTEO

Really, we/

FREDRIQUE

Hey now Cowboy, you got your toast, now I'll have mine.

MATTEO

A bit ugly.

FREDRIQUE

Whatzit? You want your penny back? I didn't think so. So. Pamela sweetheart.

PAMELA

Shhhhhhh. It's coming.

FREDRIQUE

There it is, I knew she'd have it.

PAMELA

Shhhhh. Just about got it.

FREDRIQUE

Shhhhhhh. Everybody let it let it/

PAMELA

May Cowboy Jones never rear his ugly head

May Sabrina be remembered for more than her hair.

May Matteo here, leave his nerves to the ground, forever

May Franco know that under the sun there is always an adventure.

In this cup we drink a bit of cowboy jones and after

and after

May Frederique put his cup down and always ask us to dance

(Pause)

Now shovel on the coal!

MATTEO

That was amazing.

SABRINA

A penny for your troubles Pamela. Thank you for a wonderful wonderful toast.

PAMELA

You're too kind.

FREDRIQUE

I'll tell you what I have, a beer! Hear hear!

MATTEO

Who's the Cowboy?

FREDRIQUE
We are!

SABRINA
You are!

MATTEO
Ahhhh. I get it. And you're cowgirls?

SABRINA
No.

PAMELA
No. He doesn't get it.

SABRINA
Let it go for now Matteo. Drink, eat, let's enjoy. We're flying!

FREDRIQUE
As a matter a fact we are.

All the people in the Kiosk sing this
song

We are Kioskers
We fly where we want
The sky is our road
The wind is our fuel
We are Kioskers

CHORUS
All the same
To the skies
All the same
Kioskers fly
Here we go again

We are Kioskers
There's no pirates
There's no police
No bureaucrats
to tell us what to do

All the same
To the skies
All the same
The Kioskers fly

Here we go again

We are kioskers
 we have the news for you
 Don't forget the knishes
 World famous knishes
 We are Kioskers

XI

MATTEO is looking around the inside of
 the Kiosk for the first time.

MATTEO

When I first saw it, I was shocked. The blood rushed to my ears, the tips felt hot. My ears shifted backwards slightly turning to an alert state. The ears became open to all noises, I could hear Sabrina breathing. I could hear each breath in and out. My ear could hear the action of hearing. Listen. Listen closer. Big sounds are obvious. I could hear foot falls on the floor above and then an owl asleep in the window, whimper.

SABRINA

I had never dreamed how big the kiosk would be. From the outside it's so small but once you are inside there is room after room, filled to the brim with magazines and papers and books. And gum.

Matteo where are you?

I've lost Matteo.

MATTEO

I'm here Sabrina, we are together, this is our room. I was in the hall of letters, they have so many letters going back centuries.

We will fly for days maybe more.

It is incredible.

SABRINA

Yes, it is incredible.

XII

Dinner is fed.

MATTEO

How high does this thing go.

FREDRIQUE

Ah. 23,500 seconds or 30,000 clicks of the dial. We never fly that high though, isn't good for the roof-top garden, kills the fragile herbs and that makes Pamela upset because her knishes never turn out the same without her herbs.

MATTEO

You've done it then.

FREDRIQUE

Oh I've done it all right, not on purpose. Was a cold evening over Russia, we were just finishing up our annual attendants conference, the knishes were a big hit and all attendants have taken to serving knishes and even hot dogs if you can believe it.

We had a little bourbon. Well, I had a lot of bourbon.

PAMELA enters with tea.

PAMELA

Scariest night of my life, never let an attendant captain hit the bourbon before flight.

FREDRIQUE

It would have been fine but for the auto-pilot

PAMELA

Oh Fredrique, still blaming the auto-pilot, you have to turn on the auto-pilot to blame the auto-pilot.

FREDRIQUE

Lift off protocols met. Dialed in our course, said good night to Pamela in a meaningful way you might recall.

PAMELA

Tell the story/

FREDRIQUE

/pre-flight is simple enough IF you turn on the autopilot. By two in the morning alarms were going off, oxygen nearly depleted and/

PAMELA

/my poor herbs, I will never forgive you for killing my herbs. We had no knishes for three months/

FREDRIQUE

/and we were closer to the stars than we have ever been, the view was spectacular. I could see a snail floating in between the stars, I wanted to go there to be in that void with the snail, just for a little bit. When we came back down to a present altitude I could see the lilies in full bloom on the pond.

But no knishes, it is true. For three months, no one was happy and the bourbon was put away.

MATTEO

How high are we now, just out of curiosity.

FREDRIQUE

Franco? Franco! What is our status?

FRANCO (sings the song)

Yes sir, yes, we are at 7,500 seconds
10,000 clicks of the dial and climbing

FREDRIQUE

Hit that throttle before we hit a tree
Shovel on the coal over the seven seas
We need a burst of speed
We need a bust of seed
Throw the bones down the chute
Get the coffee off the starboard
We will clear 11,000 clicks or we'll be singing

XIII

All sing the SEVEN SEA'S DAUGHTERS

D A
SEVEN SEAS DAUGHTERS

G D
AWAY WE GO

D A
SEVEN SEAS DAUGHTERS

 G A D
WE'RE WAY TO LOW

D A
SEVEN SEAS DAUGHTERS

G D
AWAY WE GO

D A
SEVEN SEAS DAUGHTERS

 G A D
WE'RE WAY TO LOW

FREDRIQUE

Sing it!

FREDRIQUE is frantically moving dials,
wheels and pullies.

ALL

D
Shovel the coal

A
Fire the speed

D
bust of seed

A
burst of speed

D A G A D
Shovel on the coal over the seven seas

D A
SEVEN SEAS DAUGHTERS

G D
AWAY WE GO

D A
SEVEN SEAS DAUGHTERS

 G A D
WE'RE WAY TO LOW

D A
SEVEN SEAS DAUGHTERS

G D
AWAY WE GO

D A
SEVEN SEAS DAUGHTERS

 G A D
WE'RE WAY TO LOW

D
ATLANTICA NORTH

A
ATLANTICA SOUTH

D
PACIFICA NORTH

A
PACIFICA SOUTH

 D A G A D
INDIANICA, ANTI-ARTICA, ARTICA SEA SEA SEA

D A
SEVEN SEAS DAUGHTERS

G D
AWAY WE GO

D A
SEVEN SEAS DAUGHTERS

 G A D
WE'RE WAY TO LOW

D A
SEVEN SEAS DAUGHTERS

G D
AWAY WE GO

D A
SEVEN SEAS DAUGHTERS

 G A D
WE'RE WAY TO LOW

Bm
RISE DAMMIT RISE

A
WE'RE DINNER TO THE SEA

Bm
RISE DAMMIT RISE

 G A Bm
WE'RE DINNER TO THE SEA

 G A D
WE'RE DINNER TO THE SEA

D A
SEVEN SEAS DAUGHTERS

G D
AWAY WE GO

D A
SEVEN SEAS DAUGHTERS

 G A D
WE'RE WAY TO LOW

D A
SEVEN SEAS DAUGHTERS

G D
AWAY WE GO

D A
SEVEN SEAS DAUGHTERS

 G A D
WE'RE WAY TO LOW

 FREDRIQUE
That can't be. We'll hit if we are this low right now.

 SABRINA enters.

 SABRINA
Hit what?

 MATTEO
I'm not sure.

 FREDRIQUE
Surely you know the seventh ridge of the seven seas, it is
10,010 clicks of the dial.

Our rudder will hit and that I can tell would not be good.

 FREDRIQUE is operating wheels and
 pullies.

More altitude Franco! Up on the deck, who's up on deck.

 FRANCO
We are auto-pilot sir we are not up on deck.

 FREDRIQUE
Get up there Franco, get up there now I need to know how close
it is.

 FRANCO
On my way.

FRANCO disappears up a rope. PAMELA enters with a tray of tea and cookies.

PAMELA

Just because we are flying doesn't mean we can't have tea.

MATTEO

Can I help in any way?

FREDRIQUE

Drink your tea, there is nothing to be done. We wait.

All drink their tea and pensively wait for the report from Franco. FREDRIQUE turns the volume up on the intercom to just static. He turns it down. He is still adjusting knobs but tiny corrections now, more out of nervousness. Time passes.

FRANCO

This is Franco, if you can hear me I have bad news. The ridge has grown a bit, it is 10100 clicks of the dial.

PAMELA

Oh dear.

SABRINA

Matteo, what's happening?

MATTEO

Looks as though we may run aground Sabrina.

SABRINA

Oh.

Frederique speaks in to intercom.

FREDRIQUE

Confirmed, brace yourself Franco, tie yourself down.

FRANCO

I am secure.

FREDRIQUE

Hang on everyone. Opening emergency chutes, releasing the bones.

The chute alarm bell rings.

SABRINA

I could've used those bones to build our house.

FREDRIQUE

Finally, chariot burst!

A loud bang and the Kiosk lurches.
Static on the radio.

Franco!

Franco!

FRANCO

Reporting we are just at 10,150 clicks and climbing steadily. We are over the ridge now, she is looking right at me and I think she is wearing high boot doc martins and a very short skirt. Her eyes are the deepest bluest...in her hair she wears the lawn chairs of the gods and the boats of the heavens, you cannot land on her for she is as fragile as a sand castle.

FREDRIQUE

Thank you Franco!

Three rounds and we'll be there.

Let's breakfast!

PAMELA

Hard boiled eggs, fresh peaches on whole wheat toast.

SABRINA

Thank you thank you thank you. The peaches are divine. They are juicy and firm and hold a flavor I don't know. I can't believe they aren't organic. None of your fruit is organic, It all looks store bought.

PAMELA

The air is very thin over the ridge lllllllllllllllllllllll

The fauna and the foul?

MATTEO

I can't keep my eyes open.

FREDERIQUE

I forgot dinner.

FRANCO

Yes. I know.

Franco drops down the rope from the
upper deck.

The altitude is getting to everyone.
There is a strange noise.

MATTEO

The eyes close and I lose track of my thoughts llllllllll what
happened to your eyes.

FRANCO

I'm not sure I keep closing them and they will not open like
they are weighted down by an invisible force. An

FREDERIQUE

Yes, an email will do it because changing a bagtery right now on
the kiosk is very complthe arrow says to go thi way, to tur
around and walkllllllllllllllnow she's a unner, you can tell by
their midriffs, their legs are thick an strong and they can run
many miles simultaneously without mesing up their
rhythmpppppppppphow many pennies do we have left?

MATTEO

Not many, I think we gave away our last two pennies. How illou
play for it in the end.

PAMELA

We store our food in tupper where or serving dishes. The soup
will be fine.

XIV

SABRINA sings the impatient song.

Are we there yet
 Are we there yet
 Are we there yet

(FEDERIQUE responds)

We will be there
 We will be there
 When we are there

(SABRINA)

How much longer
 How much further
 No birds will we fly by

(FEDERIQUE responds)

We will be there
 We will be there
 When we are there

(SABRINA)

How much longer
 How much further
 We are so high they will die

(FEDERIQUE responds)

We will be there
 We will be there
 When we are there

XV

PAMELA

/that is possible. We have five generations on this kiosk. I
 can't keep track of them all.

SABRINA

It sounds like they will break through the wall soon/

PAMELA

/a kiosk would never do that they would use the window or the
 door or just walk around the wall.

FREDRIQUE

But Sabrina, we land on the island of trees. On deck I could tell we are somewhere near where the seven seas meet for the first time.

SABRINA

We will find nothing. I am so different here.

PAMELA

You must eat Sabrina. This is certain, if you are not eating then you will not make it to the landing.

SABRINA

Why is my eating more important than my sleeping.

MATTEO

I know which finger you are talking about. It is the ring finger but not the finger on the left hand. But the right hand. That finger is denser than the rest for some reason.

FRANCO

Brace yourselves we land now.

XVII

The kioskers and Sabrina and Matteo are sitting around the dinner table eating their first island of the trees dinner.

FREDRIQUE

It is good to be in the island of trees. A toast to Sabrina for bringing us here to search out her robins.

SABRINA

I propose a toast as well. You are the Kioskers and you have guided us every step of the way, this is your life, how you go about things. You don't hesitate to adventure when the weather is just right.

FRANCO enters wearing a cowboy Jones outfit and carrying his guitar.

FRANCO

When it is our last day, we must return to the other side of the ridge.

SABRINA

On the day we are to leave, the last day we can stay and still make it back to our home in comfort.

MATTEO

The sun is setting.

PAMELA

The clouds have finally lifted.

FREDERIQUE

I can see a bit of blue sky.

FRANCO

I watch the sun brighten.

DINNER ii

They sit at the table outside of the Kiosk in the tree.

PAMELA

Pesto noodles and veggie greens.

MATTEO

Tonite I make a toast to the redwoods

SABRINA

Matteo!

FREDRIQUE

Why would you do this?

FRANCO

We told you never to go up there that the redwoods are to be left alone.

MATTEO

I know, I'm ... I just...I've never seen redwoods before and/

FREDRIQUE

/And you saw them, now what.

MATTEO

A toast,
They were surly and curmudgeonly/
They catch the wind so we can travel
They are lonely trees with lonely needs

The redwood says "what took you so long?"
I didn't know I should be here
The redwood replies "why did you even bother coming if you were
coming late?"
They don't tolerate lateness...

The redwoods will live on and on
We will let them be for that's the way it's done

FREDRIQUE

You are very brave Matteo.

DINNER iii

The piano has been moved to the
clearing and Franco plays honky tonk
while dressed in his Cowboy Jones.

PAMELA

Fennel knishes with roasted root vegetables.

FREDRIQUE

A toast

To our new garden – did I tell you the garden is planted
The garden shears did their work and cleared the bed
Little bean sprouts and basil and fennel
Carrots every six weeks and heirloom tomatoes

What do you say Cowboy Jones!

FRANCO

I say I say to what you say
We have green beans carrots corn and potatoes
Cucumber zucchini beef eater tomatoes
For me it's the lettuce I can't wait to see
The year is good for Kioskeries

May the river never run dry
May the river never run dry
May the river never run dry

May the river never run dry

I dig down deep now
 To find the right find the Right
 Thank you Frederique thank you
 For the beautiful garden you sow

DINNER iv

More furniture has been moved to the
 clearing where they eat and rest.
 SABRINA has started the walls for a
 house made of bones.

PAMELA

Rice and beans with cilantro.

FRANCO

A quick little toast for all you now

The longer we stay
 The more we have to say
 I built a boat today
 And went fishing in the bay.

DINNER v

The house of bones continues to
 develop.

PAMELA

Salmon salad. I finished the lighthouse today on the northern
 cliff of the island.

DINNER vi

The house of bones is almost complete.

PAMELA

Knishes.

FRANCO

I saw the devil of the seven seas.

FREDRIQUE

That's a myth Franco.

FRANCO

Yes and no. Her toast:

She swims around the island of trees
 She is kind for now but fickle
 as all monster gods can be
 Her tail is long her teeth are longer

I trust the monster to be
 I trust the monster to stay at sea
 Leave the monster and we will be free
 She will keep other evils at sea

MATTEO

I had a dream about Angie last night.

SABRINA

Oh Matteo.

FREDRIQUE

Who is Angie?

SABRINA

His girlfriend?

MATTEO

No. She's just/

FREDRIQUE

A toast to this Angie dream!

SABRINA

Was she freaking german again, I can too you know

SABRINA sings it:

I want a tattoo
 A bird, a mushroom, an egg
 I want a tattoo because of you
 I want a tattoo because of you

MATTEO

Her name is Angie she said:

PAMELA as Angie

Gestalt wunderbar

MATTEO

Was how she said it, all throaty like that

PAMELA as Angie

You have good hair. Gestalt wunderbar.

MATTEO

She wore doc martin boots and mid-riff plaid shirt over a short short skirt.

PAMELA as Angie

Wunderbar?

MATTEO

Yeah, wunderbar.

SABRINA

I can too I can too
Auf weder dein zeit ein gut
Auf weder dein zeit ein gut
Kick your doc martin cake

PAMELA as Angie

You are so gestalt, wunderbar, do you smoke?

MATTEO

Maybe, I said.

SABRINA

You don't smoke
Auf weder dein zeit ein gut
Gestalt – what does that even mean?
Kick your doc martin snake

I want a tattoo I want a tattoo
A robin, a mushroom, an egg
I want a tattoo because of you
I want a tattoo because of you

XVIII

FRANCO wears the Cowboy Jones outfit.

The final night dinner on island of the trees. MATTEO and SABRINA are setting the table, PAMELA brings out the food.

PAMELA

Roast chicken, dill pickles, a potato salad, and these are our last beers for dinner. We have cleaned the beers out.

FRANCO

Mom?

PAMELA

Yes Franco

FRANCO

Where's dad.

PAMELA

Searching for the robins I'm sure. You should be changing?

FRANCO

All my clothes are dirty.

SABRINA

I'm doing a load tonight Franco, I can do some of yours too?

MATTEO

Do we have any peaches?

PAMELA

Yes of course, peaches and toast for dinner as well.

FRANCO

Mom?

PAMELA

Yes Franco?

FRANCO trips and falls to the floor.

FRANCO

I'm alright. I'm good.

Where's dad?

PAMELA

He's still out searching.

SABRINA

He's out looking for the robins.

PAMELA

Franco. I think it is time for something to happen. It is time to say goodbye to Cowboy Jones.

FRANCO

But I've just gotten to know him. I am comfortable in these clothes.

PAMELA

Yes but it is time Franco, the clothes are not for you.

SABRINA

I thought I found the robins today, there was a tree that had a nest but it wasn't/

FRANCO

You think you find the nest everyday but you don't.

SABRINA

It's true. I still see the most beautiful eggs everywhere but none of them are robin eggs. They are red and have hieroglyphs on them. I didn't touch them. Well I touched one, it had fallen out of the nest. I put it back.

MATTEO

The storm is building strength.

FRANCO

Yes it is, the lightening is stronger up top than usual, it is hitting the corrals. I heard horses drop.

SABRINA

I thought I heard gunshots during my nap.

FRANCO

No, it was just the lightning I am sure of it.

FREDRIQUE

I'm back, no luck this time again. Did you have any luck Cowboy Jones?

FRANCO

No. And it is time to say goodbye to Cowboy Jones.

FREDRIQUE

So soon? We hardly got to know him.

FRANCO

Well sometimes you have to say goodbye when you least expect it.

FREDRIQUE

I'm sorry Sabrina, I'm afraid we've done our best. The time has come for us to get back to the other side of the ridge. Our gardens are not producing near as much in this deadly calm.

Thunder and lightning.

FREDRIQUE

Kraikey. How long's that been going on?

FRANCO

Horses have been dropping all afternoon.

FREDRIQUE

The redwoods!

Has anyone checked the redwoods?

FRANCO

Just the corrals.

Night falls. The fire alarm goes off. There is mass panic as the Kiosk erupts into flames. Screams of the dying are heard in the darkness. By morning, the Kiosk is nothing but smoldering ash and burned wood bits. The fire was put out by a downpour of rain before it spread to the island. The morning is quiet

save for birds singing and a crackle of wood cooling.

XIX

Days pass. Pamela stands in FREDRIQUE'S garden with a bottle of 'cowboy jones' in one hand, she is drunk. SABRINA enters with a basket to pick some veggies.

On the other side of the garden MATTEO is grinding parts of the charred kiosk into a fine charcoal powder.

PAMELA

You're back!

SABRINA

Yes. Did you see the robins?

PAMELA

I did. I've been thinking about you all the time. How did you find your way?

SABRINA

I took the path?

PAMELA

Which path would that be Fredrique? I only know of one path and I have been on it everyday searching for you.

SABRINA

Pamela?

PAMELA

You're shocked I am mad? Ha! Typical man. They all think you are dead, dead!

SABRINA

Yes.

PAMELA

Where have you been? You disappeared, did you build a new kiosk for us, is that it, are you being sly? Well too bad I have drank all the 'cowboy jones', no toast for you! Your vegetables are

rotting on the vine Fredrique, you should take better care of them don't you think?

Downpour of rain.

Did your weather balloon tell you this was going to happen, eh?

SABRINA

Pamela, we should go inside, it is getting cold.

PAMELA

Franco will be mad to see you.

SABRINA

Come on Pamela.

PAMELA

Not just yet.

SABRINA

Pamela, enough, it is Sabrina, you've had too much.

PAMELA

I've had ALL the drink. Where is he, Sabrina?

SABRINA

He is swimming with the devil of the seven seas.

PAMELA

I want to be with him.

SABRINA

Let' go inside for some tea, Matteo will make some cookies.

PAMELA

Franco!

PAMELA bends down and picks up a tomato and squeezes it until it breaks and the juices spill to the ground.

FRANCO appears at the end of the garden.

FRANCO sings a bird song

The wind is cold
 I don't want to fly anymore
 I will stand on this shore
 Watch the devil grow old
 Tomorrow we will work
 Today we will drink
 Over the edge to the fisherman's brink
 Gimme some bread
 Before I be dead
 I have no dread
 To hear in my head
 Hear the moon cry
 In the open water lie
 Eat a purple pie
 In the night we will try

XX

PAMELA is swinging from a rope swing
 tied to a tree.

Below her are two banana leaf bassinets
 with babies.

FRANCO is playing a lullaby for the
 babies.

PAMELA

The last thing I remember is the fire alarm going off. We
 smelled the smoke immediately and Fredrique, Fredrique he he
 went, he sent us out and he went he went up. He ordered us off
 the Kiosk. There was, the garden, the the and water, I heard
 screams from above, all the Kioskers trapped above.

I saw Fredrique one last time, when he brought out the twins.
 The last two survivors. Franco he was, he gave the twins.
 Sabrina was over here and...he ran back in...Fredrique he... just when
 the flaming redwoods uh...they...they came down. Then ... it ... was
 a...ah...a mushroom fire. ...paradise...I saw paradise...but then...
 Fredrique was in there, all our our our people our Kioskers, the
 the the ah...the ... the... it was gone. The kiosk.

SABRINA is on a walk.

SABRINA

I see the tip of a wing just out of my sight. I turn just in time to see the bird land in a tree off to my right.

I climb the tree as fast as I can. 'Matteo! Come quickly, I think I've found the nest!'

MATTEO

What is it? Come down now.

SABRINA

I've found them. Look, the nest.

MATTEO

You have! Pamela, Franco! Sabrina has done it, she found the Robins' nest.

SABRINA

Something is not right Matteo, I can see in the nest, something is very different.

FRANCO

Yes, I imagine it is but I haven't the slightest what it would be.

SABRINA

You know?

FRANCO

No, I don't 'know' but I am certain that here where the seven seas meet for the first time, everything is different.

SABRINA

Yes. Their eggs are not blue, they are red, a deep crimson red. The shells are not hard but soft and wet. Like the ones I've been seeing everywhere.

The robins fly around SABRINA's head.

Ah. They are happy to see me. She brought me a half a worm. Thank you Mrs. Robin, Mr. Robin. I am happy to see you are safe in a nest where the seven seas meet.

SABRINA climbs down from the tree and
MATTEO kisses her.

SABRINA

We won't run until our legs turn to ash, we will cross the thresh-hold with or without the Robins. We will live in the house made of bones.

MATTEO

Tonight I am giving you a tattoo of a robin, a mushroom and an egg.

The first dinner without FREDRIQUE.
They are in the clearing with the burned kiosk in the background. FRANCO plays a Russian march at the piano.

The twins sleep in their bassinets at the table.

PAMELA drinks wine at the table. She is drunk.

During the final toast, MATTEO gives SABRINA her tattoo at the table.

PAMELA

This is my final toast to Fredrique.

When I met Fredrique
We were just kids
Our fathers were friends
Best friends
Our mothers, they tolerated one another

Summer times, we canoed on a lake
He gave me acorns to take
We had an acorn family
Before we could marry

We were the Kioskers but our love came first
Fredrique Fredrique where have you gone
Are you watching from the seven sea's sun

One last toast to you my Fredrique

Your heart was fire
Your eyes the envy of the moon
Cowboy Jone's says – did you have to go so soon?

Cowboy Jones I wish you would come home come home come HOME
Get on a horse and ride him South
Come home come home come home

Thank the seven seas for the twins
Thank the seven seas for the twins

ALL

The twins!

End.